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MAR 24 2000

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Salmon Study
US Army Corps of Engineers

Gentlemen,

I would like to comment on the idea of breaching the dams on the Snake River to save Salmon. I don't believe that the sole issue in the problem of salmon runs is the dams on the Snake or Columbia River. Although the dams probably do have somewhat of an impact on migrating salmon, there are greater impacts from ocean overharvesting, predation from terns and seal lions, and the biggest impact, far outweighing others, is ocean conditions the last several years that have destroyed the food chain that salmon require.

I don't believe that the science used to predict increase salmon runs from dam breaching is sound. I would not destroy whole communities and economies because of it.

We need to work on the other issues of salmon recovery. Decrease fishing, including tribal fishing. Restore streams where salmon spawn. Dam improvements and salmon barging. Decrease predation from terns and sea lions and recognize that ocean conditions will most likely change to the better and salmon will increase in numbers as probably has happened in the past. Produce more hatchery fish, recognizing that hatchery fish should be counted as they came from wild fish in the first place.

My final comment is that some environmental movements sole purpose is to restore free flowing rivers and the salmon is the vehicle to get them there.

Thank You,

Richard Fazio